

Storm Lake Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

VAN BUREN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Van Buren Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Van Buren Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$837,000. These funds were used to build a school library which is also available to the community, a lunchroom, an art and music room and a meeting space at the Douds Elementary School. With a financial commitment from the community through the passage of a local option sales tax and a contribution from the Van Buren Foundation, the Douds Elementary School created a safe and supportive learning environment.

In 2003, a second Harkin grant for \$500,000 was awarded to the Van Buren School District. Matching funds came from a generous donation from the William M. and Donna J. Hoaglin Foundation. The funds were used for the remodeling of the art and music room at Stockport Elementary School, and to add another pre-school classroom at the Birmingham Early Childhood Center. These schools are the modern, state-of-the-art facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, they are the kind of schools that every child in America deserves.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of

collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Van Buren Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Tony Huffman, Terry Jester, Dick Hornberg, Sheila Parsons, Stan Whitten, Karen McEntee and Brian Starnes and former board members Jon Finney, Dixie Daugherty, Jean McIntosh, Monte Humble, Bill Shewmaker and Dr. Tim Blair. I would also like to recognize superintendent Karen Stinson, former superintendent Richard Barton and principal Charles Russell.

The projects would not have been possible without the financial support of two local foundations and I would like to recognize the board of directors of the Hoaglin Foundation; and the Van Buren Foundation board of directors, whose members include Art Ovrom, Dean Folker, Jon Finney, B.R. Poole, Steve Kisling, Rex Strait, Sandy McLain, Davis Pollock, Rich Lytle, Jim Dorothy, Butch Gates, Matt Manning, Jeanne Erickson, John O. Manning, Don VonSeggen, Pat Miller, George Manning, Mary J. Smith, Allen Gunn and Crystal Cronk.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Van Buren Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

WEST DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the West Delaware County Community School District, and to report on their participation in

a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The West Delaware County Community School District received several Harkin fire safety grants totaling \$270,199 which it used to upgrade the fire alarm system and improve emergency lighting and other items at the high school and middle school as well as add fire rated doors and smoke and heat detectors at Lambert Elementary School. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the superintendent Bob Cue and the entire staff, administration, and governance in the West Delaware County Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—president Elwyn Curtis, Mike Ryan, Steve Dudak, Cheryl Stufflebeam and Linda Bessey, as well as past members former president Dan Zumbach, Mike Carr, Ilona Durey, Gary Johnson, Jack Young, and Edith Fortmann-Comley.

Other dedicated district staff who were instrumental in the success of the grant implementation whom I would also like to recognize are the late superintendent Rick Hilbert, business manager Ron Goerd, building and grounds director Ron Swartz, and technology coordinator Ron Struble.

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WOODBINE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Woodbine Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Woodbine Community School District received several Harkin grants totaling \$1,138,670 which it used to help build a new school, renovate existing classrooms, and make fire safety repairs throughout the district. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. To accomplish this comprehensive plan to modernize schools throughout the district, the citizens in the school district passed a bond issue for \$5.1 million.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Woodbine Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Amy Sherer, Mike Staben, Joanna Shaw, Todd Heistand, and Amber Nelson and former board mem-

bers Joe Ball, Ryan Sullivan, Randall Pryor, Cheryl Book, Alan Ronk, Lynnette Lee, and Alan Ahrenholtz. I would also like to recognize superintendent Tom Vint, former superintendent Dr. Terry Hazard, former high school principal Deb Johnsen, Jim Berg with BVH Architects and the members of the steering committee responsible for passage of the bond referendum.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

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TRIBUTE TO BOBBY HAYES

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Bobby Hayes, who has dedicated over 24 years of his life to public service. In October of this year, when Bobby steps down as mayor of the city of Pelham, AL, he will leave behind a legacy of leadership and service to his community.

For 24 years, Bobby has served as the mayor of Pelham. Over those years, Bobby has overseen many changes to the city. As a retired field commander of the tactical operations unit of the Birmingham Police Department, it was critical to Bobby that he provide local law enforcement with the tools needed to do their jobs effectively. Bobby successfully expanded the Pelham Police Department, adding a traffic unit, tactical operation unit, school resource officers and installing computers in all patrol cars.

It was also under his direction that Pelham erected four new fire stations and a new public safety building to house the police department and the municipal court. During his tenure, Mayor Hayes also was instrumental in the building of the Pelham Civic Complex and Pelham Senior Center. Bobby also ensured that the Pelham sewer system and new sewer plant were completed and increased the city's water supply and storage facilities.

A strong supporter of education and academics, Bobby oversaw the expan-

sion and renovation of the Pelham Public Library. Since then, it has become one of only four public libraries in the State the Alabama Library Association recognized for excellence in library service. In 2005, the library became the recipient of prestigious Blue Ribbon Library status.

While many people think that the service Bobby contributes each day as mayor of Pelham is enough, he thinks otherwise. An avid leader, Bobby has been involved in many State committees and one national committee. In 2004, he was elected vice-president of the Alabama League of Municipalities and in 2005 he rose to serve as president. Bobby also represents the mayors of the 6th Congressional District to the State of Alabama Housing Finance Authority.

Additionally, Bobby has held memberships with organizations such as the Alabama League Committee on State and Federal Legislation, National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy Committee, the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce, and the Alabama City/County Management Association.

Bobby is married to Judith Lance Hayes. Together, they have three children and nine grandchildren.

As Bobby embarks on another phase in his life, he will be remembered for his dedication and many contributions to the city of Pelham's ongoing prosperity and advancement. I wish him much luck in his future endeavors, and I ask this entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life and career of my good friend Bobby Hayes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 6890. An act to extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109-148, relating to elementary and secondary education hurricane recovery relief, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6894. An act to extend and reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

The bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1046. An act to modify pay provisions relating to certain senior-level positions in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 2606. An act to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1343. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorization of appropriations for the health